

# Season-ENDER 'Nothing Affair'

By HUGH McDONALD  
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There's better than a 50-50 chance that the Seals will be playing hockey in Oakland again next year, President Munson Campbell estimated after the 1-1 tie with Los Angeles Kings to end the club's activity for the 1974-75 season Sunday night.

The game at the Oakland Arena was a nothing affair inasmuch as the Seals are out of the playoffs and the Kings are in and set to open their first round against the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday. But the 5,159 fans present were treated to a hard-hitting contest in which the Seals came from behind to avenge their 5-3 loss in Los Angeles Saturday night. The Seals finished their season at the .500 mark with a 15-15-10 record on home ice. It was their bad road record, in which they won only four games, that doomed them to their third successive cellar finish.

A power play goal on a screened shot by Tom Williams in the first period gave the Kings the lead last night. Larry Patey's 25th goal of the season tied it in the second frame.

With a season over that most of the players would like to forget, their thoughts at the end of it, as well as the fans, was on the future of

the team which is owned by the National Hockey League.

Bill McCreary, hockey director and coach, said the club is "thinking positively" in regard to next year. He said he understands that "we are very close to consummating a deal" that will see the ownership go to a group headed by Mel Swig, San Francisco real estate man and a former president of the minor league Seals.

McCreary said definitely after the game that he would not be coaching the team next year, but he would fulfill the second year of his contract as director of hockey.

He said the coaching job has been offered to Jack Evans, now mentor of the Seals farm club in Salt Lake City, "and while he has not signed a contract, he has said he is interested in taking the job."

Although rumors are current that some of the Seals are considering jumping to the World Hockey Association, McCreary said, "We don't expect to lose any to the WHA."

"We'd be foolish to let anybody get away," said Campbell.

The Swig group has until May 1 to offer a package that they hope will be acceptable to the NHL.

Originally, Charles

Schultz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, was in on the investing group. He since has retired from the field, but another unidentified money interest has come in to reinforce the Swig offer.

Campbell said he expects to spend two-thirds of every day from now until May 1 in working toward the effort to swing the franchise to the Swig group. He said agreement has been reached on the "significant items" in transfer of the franchise and he is "very optimistic" that hockey will stay in the Bay Area.

The players themselves gave an effort Sunday night which indicated they were anxious to leave a good taste in the mouths of their fans.

The game was rough and in the second period, Seals defenseman Len Frig was speared by Don Kozak in a play in which no penalty was called. Later Danny Maloney elbowed Frig and set him crashing into the boards. Frig had to retire with a mild concussion and Maloney was given a major penalty.

Earlier in the period Butch Williams objected too strenuously to an offside call and for his speechmaking was assessed a 10-minute misconduct and a game misconduct penalty.